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**Name of Organization:** Southeast Chicago Development Commission

**Type of Organization:** Other

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**Project Title:** Eco-Industrial Network

**Project Category:** Pollution Prevention and Reduction - BNS

**Rank by Organization (if applicable):** 0

**Total Funding Requested (\$):** 31,000 **Project Duration:** 1 Years

**Abstract:**

According to the Cornell Center of the Environment, eco-industrial parks are a promising type of alternative economic development. Business and community do not have to be in conflict; they can flourish together. Both have a stake in economic growth which happens in a sustainable manner. The Southeast Chicago community understands this potential for the various industrial corridors located in the Calumet region. Although eco-industrial parks tend to be considered physical places, the Development Commission believes that they can utilize the basic principles of material re-use, waste reduction, and energy efficiency within networks of companies without needing to be in physical proximity to each other. These efficiencies will also enable companies to improve their viability as ongoing sources of jobs for local residents. This proposal calls for the research required to identify business practices around material re-use, waste reduction, and energy efficiency which will enable the Development Commission to create a network in conjunction with local companies which will enable to maximize their potential to operate in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner.

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**Geographic Areas Affected by the Project**

**States:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio

**Lakes:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

**Geographic Initiatives:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
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**Primary Affected Area of Concern:**

**Other Affected Areas of Concern:** Lake Calumet  
Calumet River

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***For Habitat Projects Only:***

**Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:** Not Applicable

**Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:**

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**Problem Statement:**

Southeast Chicago was once the center of steel making and heavy industry for the Midwest. The region contains approximately 3,000 acres of land zoned for manufacturing and an equal amount consisting of wetlands and lake. Because of the recession of the 1980's, the area suffered from disinvestment, having a large unskilled labor force, abundant vacant lots and problems with crime. The image of the Lake Calumet area discouraged new investment and posed serious constraints for businesses seeking to attract qualified workers. Environmental contamination and inadequate infrastructure caused hazards, business problems, and eyesores in key areas in the corridor. The lack of drainage has caused flooding severe enough to curtail business operations. Also present are remnants of illegal dumps and pre-regulation industrial landfills.

Today, Southeast Chicago and the Calumet Industrial Corridor are going through a major turn around. The region has well over \$17 million dollars worth of re-development projects underway and recently completed. In order for new and existing businesses to grow and become more competitive, they will need to reduce their impacts on the natural environment. Industrial contamination is especially hazardous in the corridor because pollutants move via groundwater and surface water runoff, reaching the Calumet River and Lake Calumet and entering the food chain through fish and other wildlife. Industrial contamination is also of great concern to people living in nearby residential communities and recreational users of the river and lake. There is a need for cleaning up existing contamination and preventing further pollution in the area.

**Proposed Work Outcome:**

The goal of this research is to identify business practices around material re-use, waste reduction, and energy efficiency which will enable the Development Commission to create a network in conjunction with local companies which will enable them to maximize their potential to operate in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner. These goals will be pursued through a variety of objectives, including: collecting information on and analyzing current industry practices and operations in the calumet region related to by-product exchanges, collecting information on business opportunities and constraints that can be enhanced or mitigated through more environmentally sound practices in the calumet region, and suggesting ways that key industry clusters can be strengthened through the use of sustainable development practices, including industrial by-product exchanges.

Our research will also collect information from businesses on current practices related to the production and disposal of industrial by-products such as industrial wastes and surplus energy. The purpose of collecting this information is to promote sustainable development through industrial by-product exchanges, pollution prevention, energy co-generation, wastewater reuse and other practices. The long term results of these sustainable development practices are to minimize

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both inputs of materials and energy to businesses and outputs of waste and pollutants.

Lastly, workings of industrial clusters in the Calumet region will also be identified. The Development Commission will collect information on: the current industry waste stream profiles of the targeted businesses and processes (i.e., what industrial by-products such as waste, surplus heat, and scrap materials are currently being produced by businesses in the corridor); the types and amounts of industrial by-products needed by businesses as production inputs; what current practices are for the disposal of industrial by-products; what industrial by-product exchanges are currently taking place; the type of product manufacture; and the three biggest issues facing the businesses.

By analyzing the sustainable development practices of businesses and by gaining knowledge of the workings of key industrial clusters in the Calumet region, the Development Commission will be able to promote initiatives designed to strengthen key industries and reduce environment degradation. These initiatives will include bringing about industrial by-product exchanges and investigating the feasibility of developing an Eco-Industrial Network.

**Project Milestones:**

**Dates:**

A literature search	07/2000
Research through existing databases	08/2000
Develop survey interview protocols	09/2000
Key informant interviews	10/2000
A survey of businesses	10/2000
Industry focus groups	02/2001
Combine information/Create Database	04/2001
Develop final report and recommendations	06/2001

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☒ Project Addresses Environmental Justice

**If So, Description of How:**

The Lake Calumet region is located within the Southeast side of Chicago, which is a predominately African American and Mexican American low-income neighborhood. During the recession of the late 1980's approximately 40% of the jobs in the community disappeared. Industries such as United States Steel, Amerail and General Mills pulled plants out of the southeast side taking over 25,000 jobs with them. Fortunately for South Chicago's growing pool of displaced workers, many companies on the South Side of Chicago are now in the midst of expansion. The number of new jobs created, however, does not make up for the number of manufacturing jobs lost over the last two decades, and the lack of economic viability continues to take its toll on the community.

☒ Project Addresses Education/Outreach

**If So, Description of How:**

All pollution prevention materials will be summarized and readily available for distribution. The partnership will bring together key industrial personal to discuss how industrial ecosystems makes productive use of otherwise unwanted industrial outputs and how it increases productivity and efficiency while at the same time decreases impacts to the environment. We will also educate industrialist on waste exchange connections available within the Lake Calumet region. Lastly, through our data we will formulate a set of recommendations for the feasibility of an eco-industrial network.

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**Project Budget:**

	<b>Federal Share Requested (\$)</b>	<b>Applicant's Share (\$)</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	15,000	5,000
<b>Fringe:</b>	0	1,000
<b>Travel:</b>	1,000	0
<b>Equipment:</b>	0	0
<b>Supplies:</b>	5,000	2,000
<b>Contracts:</b>	10,000	0
<b>Construction:</b>	0	0
<b>Other:</b>	0	0
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	31,000	8,000
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	0	1,000
<b>Total:</b>	31,000	9,000
<b>Projected Income:</b>	31,000	9,000

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**Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):**

Southeast Chicago Development Commission 9,000- Cash in hand

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**Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:**

There is both public and private collaboration on this project. The City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development and the IEPA will provide support through the access of their industrial database files and GIS files. These files contain current business information on the companies that reside in the Lake Calumet region. We will also be working with the U.S. EPA through their industrial materials exchange service.